



news

For Immediate Release

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TESOL Calls for Fairness in Program Reduction

Alexandria, Virginia (March 2009) – At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), approved the association's position on program reduction at institutions. Recognizing the fact that current economic conditions have caused some universities and post-secondary institutions to make program cut-backs, TESOL urges public policy makers and managers of educational institutions to exercise fairness and equity in administering program cuts and not unfairly target ESOL programs.

During turbulent economic times, educational programs that serve culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse student populations may be at a disadvantage when competing for reduced funding with programs that serve conventional, mainstream student populations. Exacerbating this situation is the fact that many ESL programs at the post-secondary level in the United States and elsewhere are staffed with part-time, adjunct, or contingent faculty. As these programs serve a vital role in providing opportunities to students in need of language services, unfairly targeting them for reductions may have negative and long-lasting effects.

TESOL's full *Position Statement on Fairness and Equity in ESL Program Reduction* is available at www.tesol.org.

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Incorporated in 1966, Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Inc. (TESOL), is a global association for English language teaching professionals headquartered in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. TESOL encompasses a network of approximately 60,000 educators worldwide, consisting of more than 14,000 individual members and an additional 45,000 educators within the 100 plus TESOL affiliate associations. Representing a multifaceted academic discipline and profession, TESOL offers members serial publications, books, and electronic resources on current issues, ideas, and opportunities in the field of English language teaching. TESOL also conducts a variety of workshops and symposia, including an annual convention, regarded as the foremost professional development opportunity for English language educators worldwide. TESOL's mission is to develop and maintain professional expertise in English language teaching for speakers of other languages worldwide.